United Nations S/2006/344

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 30 May 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have decided to send a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 10 to 12 June 2006. The mission will be headed by Ambassador de La Sablière, of France. The members of the Security Council have approved the mandate of the mission, which is annexed hereto.

At the conclusion of the consultations among the members, it was agreed that the composition of the mission would be as follows:

Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière (France), head of mission
Ambassador Basile Ikouebe (Congo)
Ambassador Lars Faaborg-Andersen (Denmark)
Ambassador Nana Effah-Apenteng (Ghana)
Ambassador Shinichi Kitaoka (Japan)
Counsellor Vitaliano Gallardo (Peru)
Ambassador Peter Burian (Slovakia)
Ambassador Augustine P. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania)
Minister William J. Brencick (United States of America)

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Basile **Ikouebe**
President of the Security Council

06-36722 (E) 310506 310506

Annex

Security Council mission on the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Kinshasa, 11 and 12 June 2006

1. The Security Council mission will welcome the progress achieved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the previous mission (4-10 November 2005): enactment of the electoral law, establishment of the electoral timetable and publication of the names of candidates for the presidential and legislative elections.

2. The mission will pay tribute to the Congolese nation, which has demonstrated its commitment to the democratic process under way. It will reiterate the Security Council's support for this process, which began with the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo of 17 December 2002, and which should lead to the establishment of democratic and sustainable institutions. It will commend the work of the Independent Electoral Commission and the other institutions in support of democracy, and will assure them of the Council's full support.

3. The mission will emphasize that the Transition, which has now entered its last phase, will not be complete until free elections open to all have taken place. While noting that the postponement of the first round of elections to 30 July 2006 was due to technical constraints, the mission will stress the importance of the polls taking place within the time limits set by the Independent Electoral Commission. It will refer to the unprecedented efforts made by the international community, in particular the United Nations, to support that process. It will call on Congolese stakeholders to commit themselves unequivocally and with an inclusive approach, in particular by ensuring that the electoral timetable is strictly adhered to.

4. The mission will encourage the transitional authorities to increase their efforts, with support from the International Committee in Support of the Transition (CIAT) and the international partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to guarantee the democratic character of the electoral process. It will stress the importance of equitable access by candidates to the media, impartial monitoring of the legality of the elections, and voter education. In this context it will commend the proposal to designate a Panel of Wise personalities.

5. The mission will underline its concerns about the security situation during the electoral period and stress that the elections must take place in a peaceful environment with the police ensuring law and order at polling stations. In that regard, it will commend the efforts undertaken by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the European Union.

6. The mission will stress that the elections are not an end in themselves, but an essential stage in ongoing efforts towards national reconciliation and reconstruction of the country. It will call on all Congolese stakeholders to commit themselves, once the Transition has ended, to continuing to work together in the nation's interest and to upholding standards of good governance and transparent economic management. It will reiterate the concerns of the Security Council, which will remain valid following the elections, in particular the integration of the army and the police, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, the disarmament, repatriation and resettlement of foreign armed groups, and the ending

of impunity for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It will express the willingness of the international community, in particular the United Nations, to maintain its cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a long-term basis.